

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 16 and 36, claims 1 to 15 and 17 to 35 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **II. Reversal of Rejection of Claims 1, 17 and 36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Applicant notes that the Board reversed the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,129,496 ("Sigl et al.").

### **III. Reversal of Rejection of Claims 2 to 16 and 18 to 35 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Applicant notes that the Board reversed the rejection of claims 2 to 16 and 18 to 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Sigl et al. and U.K. Published Patent Application No. 2 297 619.

### **IV. Rejection of Claims 16 and 36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

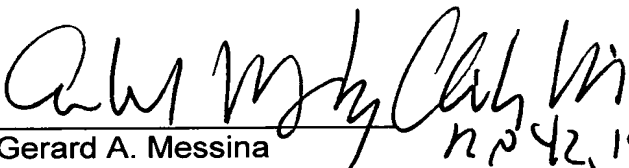
Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b), the Board entered a new ground of rejection of claims 16 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claims 16 and 36 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**V. Conclusion**

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised in the Decision on Appeal having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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